

*Living Word:
A Good Offense*

March 16, 2025

An Explanation of Our Communion Practice

Today we are celebrating the Lord's Supper, which is a wonderful gift from our gracious God. In his Word, God teaches that Christians need a proper understanding of the Lord's Supper before receiving it (1 Corinthians 11:27-29). He also tells us that Christians should be completely united before communing together (1 Corinthians 10:17). Therefore, we ask that only members of our fellowship (The Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod and, worldwide, The Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference) commune at Trinity.

We do want everyone to commune with us. So that everything may be done decently and in good order (1 Corinthians 14:40), we ask for the opportunity to verify that we are united in our beliefs based on God's Word, and then to celebrate that unity publicly in the Sacrament. If you would like to learn more, please speak to Pastor. Thank you for your understanding of our belief and practice.





The Second Sunday In Lent

March 16, 2025

Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship! In our service, we receive God's grace through his Word and sacraments. As he works to strengthen our faith in Jesus, we respond to his goodness with our prayers, praise, and offerings. We are glad to be here and glad that you have joined us today!

- Restrooms are located in the main hallway, narthex, and back classrooms.
- If you wish to step out of the service to calm your child, please feel welcome to use the Fellowship Hall or the Toddler Sunday School Room (located in the back-corner classroom of the building, connected to the Fellowship Hall). Both of these rooms have televisions showing the worship service. Also, please do not hesitate to ask an usher or any member if you need help locating anything. We want to make you feel welcome.

Serving the Lord and Serving Us:

Pastor: Rev. Paul Jenkins

Today's Focus: Jesus works salvation for all who believe, even while many reject his rescue. Our worship follows *Service of Word and Sacrament*.

WE COME INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

MUSICAL INTRODUCTION

This is an opportunity to quiet your mind and heart and prepare for the joy of worshipping your God.

OPENING HYMN:

11:00: Sunday School sings 120, What Wondrous Love Is This, verses 1, 2, and 4

8:30: 121, Jesus, Grant that Balm and Healing;



1 Je - sus, grant that balm and heal - ing In your
2 Should some lust or sharp temp - ta - tion Fas - ci -
3 If the world my heart en - tic - es With the
4 Ev - 'ry wound that pains or grieves me By your
5 O my God, my Rock and Tow - er, Grant that



ho - ly wounds I find, Ev - 'ry hour that
nate my sin - ful mind, Let me think a -
broad and eas - y road, With se - duc - tive,
wounds, Lord, is made whole; When I'm weak, your
in your death I trust, Know - ing death has



I am feel - ing Pains of bod - y and of mind.
bout your pas - sion, And new cour - age I shall find.
sin - ful vic - es, Let me think a - bout the load
cross re - vives me, Grant - ing new life to my soul.
lost his pow - er Since you crushed him in the dust.



Should some e - vil thought with - in Tempt my treach - 'rous
Or should Sa - tan press me hard, Let me then be
You were will - ing to en - dure; Then I'll flee all
Yes, your com - fort ren - ders sweet Ev - 'ry bit - ter
Sav - ior, let your ag - o - ny Ev - er help and



heart to sin, Show the per - il, and from sin - ning,
on my guard, Say - ing, "Christ for me was wound - ed,"
thoughts im - pure, Mas - ter - ing each wild temp - ta - tion,
cup I meet; For your all - a - ton - ing pas - sion,
com - fort me; When I die be my pro - tec - tion,



Keep me from its first be - gin - ning.
That the tempt - er flee con - found - ed.
Calm in prayer and med - i - ta - tion.
Has pro - cured my soul's sal - va - tion.
Light and life and res - ur - rec - tion.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647, abr.; tr. composite.
Tune: DER AM KREUZ (87 87 77 88) Johann B. König, 1691–1758.

INVOCATION

Minister: The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Congregation: And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

LORD OF MERCY

KYRIE

M: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: Christ, have mercy.

M: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care.

C: Amen.

M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

O LORD, OUR LORD

C: O Lord, our Lord, how glo - rious is your name in
all the earth. Al - might - y God, mer - ci - ful Fa - ther,
you crown our life with your love. You take a - way our sin;
you com - fort our spir - it; you make us pure and
ho - ly in your sight. You did not spare your on - ly Son,
but gave him up for us all. O Lord, our Lord,
how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.
O Son of God, e - ter - nal Word of the Fa - ther,
you came to live with us; you made your Fa - ther known;

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are aligned with the notes on a ten-staff system. There are three triplet markings (indicated by a '3' above the notes) in the second, third, and fourth staves. The piece concludes with a double bar line and a key signature change to one flat (F).

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you washed us from our sins in your own blood. You are the

King of glo - ry; you are the Lord! O Lord, our Lord,

how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray. Almighty God, you see that we have no power to defend ourselves. Guard and keep us both outwardly and inwardly from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil that thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Be Seated

The Word

FIRST LESSON

Jeremiah 26:8-15

Jeremiah faithfully proclaims the Lord's Word into growling and biting opposition.

When Jeremiah had finished saying everything the LORD had commanded him to say to all the people, then the priests, the prophets, and all the people seized him and said, "You must die! ⁹Why do you prophesy in the name of the LORD that this house will be like Shiloh and that this city will be desolate with no one living here?" All the people crowded around Jeremiah in the House of the LORD.

¹⁰ When the officials of Judah heard about these things, they came up from the king's house to the House of the Lord and sat in the entrance of the New Gate of the LORD's house.

¹¹ Then the priests and the prophets said to the officials and to all the people, "This man deserves the sentence of death because he has been prophesying against this city, as you heard with your own ears."

(continued on next page)

¹² Then Jeremiah said to all the officials and to all the people, “The LORD sent me to prophesy against this house and against this city all the things that you have heard. ¹³ Now reform your ways and your actions, and obey the LORD your God. Then the LORD will relent and not bring about the disaster he has pronounced against you. ¹⁴ But as for me, look, I am in your hands. Do with me whatever seems good and right in your eyes. ¹⁵ But you can be certain of this. If you put me to death, you will bring innocent blood on yourselves and on this city and on those who live here, for it is true that the LORD has sent me to you to speak all these words in your hearing.”

PSALM OF THE DAY: 42

READ RESPONSIVELY

M: As the deer pants for streams of water,

C: so my soul pants for you, O God.

M: My soul thirsts for the living God.

C: Where can my soul go and meet with God?

M: Why are you downcast, O my soul?

C: Why so disturbed within me?

M: Put your hope in God,

C: for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.

M: Send forth your light and your truth, and let them guide me;

C: let them bring me to the place where you dwell.

M: Then I will go to the altar of my God, my joy and my delight.

C: I will praise you with the harp, O God, my God.

SECOND LESSON

Philippians 3:17-4:1

St. Paul encourages the Philippians to stand firm in the truth even as opposing ideas try to pull them away from it.

Brothers, join together in imitating me and in paying attention to those who are walking according to the pattern we gave you. ¹⁸To be sure, many walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. I told you about them often, and now I am saying it while weeping. ¹⁹Their end is destruction, their god is their appetite, and their glory is in their shame. They are thinking only about earthly things. ²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven. We are eagerly waiting for a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹By the power that enables him to subject all things to himself, he will transform our humble bodies to be like his glorious body.

4 So then, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, in this way keep standing firm in the Lord, my dear friends.

VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Alleluia! Jesus humbled himself and became obedient to death, even death on a cross. Alleluia!
(Philippians 2:8b)

Stand

GOSPEL AND SERMON TEXT

Luke 13:31-35

M: The Gospel of St. Luke, chapter 13.

C: Glory be to you, O Lord!

In that very hour, some Pharisees came to him and said, "Leave, and go away from here, because Herod wants to kill you."

³² He said to them, "Go tell that fox, 'Look, I am going to drive out demons and heal people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal. ³³ Nevertheless, I must go on my way today and tomorrow and the next day, because it cannot be that a prophet would be killed outside Jerusalem!'

³⁴ "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those sent to her! How often I have wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! ³⁵ Look, your house is left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you will say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!'"

M: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

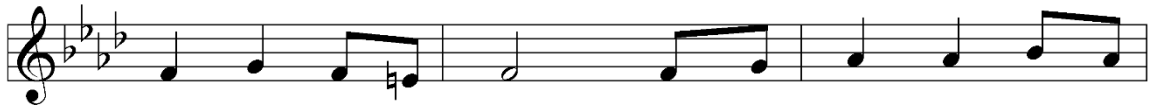
Be seated

CHILDREN'S SERMON: Jesus Wins

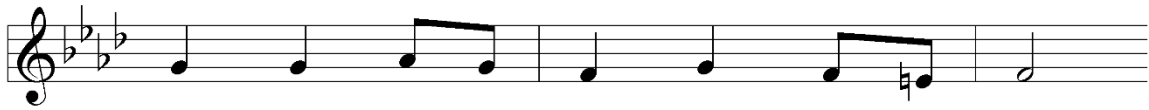
HYMN OF THE DAY: 127, Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted



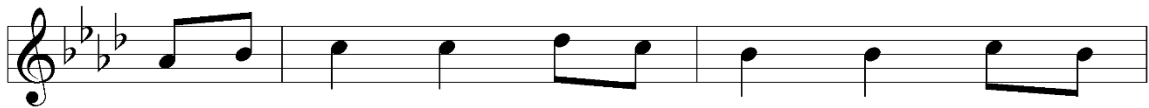
1 Strick - en, smit - ten, and af - flict - ed, See him
2 Tell me, as you hear him groan - ing, Was there
3 If you think of sin but light - ly Nor sup -
4 Here we have a firm foun - da - tion, Here the



dy - ing on the tree! 'Tis the Christ, by man re -
ev - er grief like his? Friends through fear his cause dis -
pose the e - vil great, Here you see its na - ture
ref - uge of the lost; Christ's the rock of our sal -



ject - ed; Yes, my soul, 'tis he, 'tis he.
own - ing, Foes in - sult - ing his dis - tress,
right - ly, Here its guilt may es - ti - mate.
va - tion, His the name of which we boast.



'Tis the long - ex - pect - ed Proph - et, Da - vid's
Man - y hands were raised to wound him, None would
Mark the sac - ri - fice ap - point - ed; See who
Lamb of God, for sin - ners wound - ed, Sac - ri -



Son, yet Da - vid's Lord; Proofs I see suf - fi - cient
in - ter - vene to save, But the deep - est stroke that
bears the aw - ful load— 'Tis the Word, the Lord's A -
fice to can - cel guilt— None shall ev - er be con -



of it: 'Tis the true and faith - ful Word.
pierced him Was the stroke that Jus - tice gave.
noint - ed, Son of Man and Son of God.
found - ed Who on him their hope have built.

Text: Thomas Kelly, 1769–1855, alt.

Tune: O MEIN JESU, ICH MUSS STERBEN (87 87 D) *Geistliche Volkslieder*, Paderborn, 1850.

SERMON

Text: Luke 13:31-35

Theme: The Living Word: A Good Offense

Stand

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became fully human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Be Seated

OFFERING

Please take a moment to sign the friendship register found in your pew.

The members of Trinity make joyful offerings to support this church's ministry. A portion of our offerings is also used for the training of future pastors and teachers, and the worldwide mission work carried out by our fellowship, the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Our guests are under no obligation to give, but any gifts freely given are welcome and will be put to work in service to God's kingdom.

Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Lord Jesus Christ, lift up our hearts with thanksgiving and praise. Through the blood of your covenant, you have made us worthy to receive your Holy Supper. You join us with believers throughout the world and through the ages by your body given for us. In this sacrament time and eternity meet as we celebrate a foretaste of the feast now enjoyed by all who are in heavenly glory. As we receive your true body and blood, we rejoice in our salvation through you, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit are one God, now and forever. Amen.

Special prayers

LORD'S PRAYER

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He made his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -
na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -
na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The musical score is written on six staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and a common time signature (C). The melody is primarily composed of quarter and eighth notes, with some slurs and ties. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this (+) is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this (+) is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - - men.

The musical score consists of five staves of music in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a common time signature (C). The melody is written in a simple, diatonic style. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The final staff ends with a double bar line.

Be Seated

DISTRIBUTION

Hymn: 359, Jesus, My Great High Priest



1 Je - sus, my great High Priest, Of - fered his blood and
2 To Christ, my sub - sti - tute, Will I com - mit my
3 My ad - vo - cate ap - pears For my de - fense on
4 Should all the hosts of death And pow'rs of hell un -



died; My guilt - y con - science seeks No sac - ri -
cause; He an - swers and ful - fills His Fa - ther's
high; A gra - cious Fa - ther hears And lays his
known Put their most dread - ful forms Of rage and



rice be - side. His pow'r - ful blood did once a -
bro - ken laws. Be - hold my soul at free - dom
thun - der by. Not all that hell or sin can
mis - chief on, I shall be safe, for Christ dis -



tone, And now it pleads be - fore the throne.
set— My Je - sus paid the dread - ful debt!
say Shall turn his heart, his love, a - way.
plays Su - pe - rior pow'r and guard - ian grace.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, abr., alt.
Tune: BEVAN (66 66 88) John Goss, 1800–80.

Stand

THANK THE LORD



C: Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re-joyce and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-news his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

M: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.
The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

C: Amen.

Be Seated

Closing Hymn:

8:30: Sunday School sings 120, What Wondrous Love Is This, verses 1, 2, 4;

11:00: 121, Jesus, Grant that Balm and Healing



1 Je - sus, grant that balm and heal - ing In your
2 Should some lust or sharp temp - ta - tion Fas - ci -
3 If the world my heart en - tic - es With the
4 Ev - 'ry wound that pains or grieves me By your
5 O my God, my Rock and Tow - er, Grant that



ho - ly wounds I find, Ev - 'ry hour that
nate my sin - ful mind, Let me think a -
broad and eas - y road, With se - duc - tive,
wounds, Lord, is made whole; When I'm weak, your
in your death I trust, Know - ing death has



I am feel - ing Pains of bod - y and of mind,
bout your pas - sion, And new cour - age I shall find.
sin - ful vic - es, Let me think a - bout the load
cross re - vives me, Grant - ing new life to my soul.
lost his pow - er Since you crushed him in the dust.



Should some e - vil thought with - in Tempt my treach - 'rous
Or should Sa - tan press me hard, Let me then be
You were will - ing to en - dure; Then I'll flee all
Yes, your com - fort ren - ders sweet Ev - 'ry bit - ter
Sav - ior, let your ag - o - ny Ev - er help and



heart to sin, Show the per - il, and from sin - ning
on my guard, Say - ing, "Christ for me was wound - ed,"
thoughts im - pure, Mas - ter - ing each wild temp - ta - tion,
cup I meet; For your all - a - ton - ing pas - sion
com - fort me; When I die be my pro - tec - tion,



Keep me from its first be - gin - ning.
That the tempt - er flee con - found - ed.
Calm in prayer and med - i - ta - tion.
Has pro - cured my soul's sal - va - tion.
Light and life and res - ur - rec - tion.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647, abr.; tr. composite.
Tune: DER AM KREUZ (87 87 77 88) Johann B. König, 1691–1758.

Trinity Lutheran Church

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Wine and Word Bible Study – April 3rd

The Wine and Word Bible Study meets at the home of Bruce and Dawn Knox. Their home is located just 5 minutes from the church in Old Bridge Estates. We meet the 1st and 3rd Thursdays from 7-8:30 pm. Those who wish can bring a bottle of wine and a small bite appetizer. Come and join us whether you drink wine or not! Contact Dawn at 703-615-9320 or dawn.f.knox@gmail.com to RSVP.

Lenten Suppers.

On the four remaining Wednesdays of Lent, potluck suppers will start in the Fellowship Hall at 6, followed by short devotions around 6:30. Everyone is welcome!

Fifth Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Trinity's next outreach event will be our Fifth Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 12 at 2pm. Eggs filled with candy will be ordered again this year, but you're welcome to add your own to the stash, if you'd like. Our goal is to show kindness and also invite our unchurched neighbors to join us for Holy Week worship. This is a low-volunteer event, but a few will be needed to supervise and to staff a welcome table. If you'd like to help, please speak to pastor. Thank you!

Catechism Essays; Confirmation Sunday

Our two young friends Carice Hendricks and Mary McKnight will read their Catechism essays to the congregation at the top of the 11:00 service on Sunday, April 6. The purpose of the essays is to demonstrate that they have been instructed in the basic truths of God's Word as laid out in Luther's Small Catechism, and are therefore prepared to confess their face publicly and to begin communing on Confirmation Sunday.

The Rite of Confirmation will be held in the 11:00 service on Palm Sunday, April 13, with cake and celebration time following in the Fellowship Hall.

April Communion Dates

Please note that Holy Communion will be celebrated in April on the first, second, and fourth Sundays (April 6, 13, and 27). This is so that there will be Communion on Confirmation Sunday, but not on Easter Sunday when many guests from outside our fellowship often worship with us.

Trinity's Little Free Library is one of our church's most effective tools for reaching out to our neighborhood. Many families in the area around Trinity regularly visit our LFL for books and shelf-stable food items, especially those who are experiencing food scarcity. Particularly useful are canned or boxed foods that do not require additional ingredients besides water to prepare. Books are always welcome, too, of course! If

the shelves happen to be full, there is a donation bin for overflow items in the Fellowship Hall beside the door to the hallway.

Small Choir

Trinity's choir sings about once a month during worship. Anyone is welcome to join! We'll sing hymns from our hymnal, Christian Worship. If you are interested in joining, please let John or Erika Ohlendorf know.

Ushers and Usher Assistants Needed

A sign-up sheet is sent via email through Sign-up Genius. You are welcome to fill in as many Sundays as you are available. If you would like to become part of the regular rotation of ushers, or even just fill in once in a while when needed, please speak to Worship Elder Andy Lutz. If you have any questions or are not getting the emails for Sign-Up Genius, please email worship@trinityofwoodbridge.org. You can also scan this code to sign up:



Lord's Supper Available to All Members

If you are a confirmed member of Trinity, Pastor would be happy to commune you at home, or anywhere else you would like to meet. Just contact him at (309) 433-5807 or revpauljenkins@yahoo.com with a date, time, and place, and he will make it work.



Love Your Enemies

<https://wels.net/family-devotion/fd20250228/>

Read: Luke 6:27-38

“But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you. “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them.

Luke 6:27-32

Imagine what you would do in these two scenarios as you are walking out of the door for school.

Scenario 1: A parent says, “Make sure to be nice to your best friend and to listen to your favorite teacher.”

Scenario 2: A parent says, “Make sure to be kind to the kid who makes fun of you on the school bus and compliment the girl who started a horrible rumor about you last week.”

In the first scenario you would probably respond, “Sounds good, and I love you mom.” In the second scenario you might respond, “No way! They don’t deserve it.”

In our reading for today Jesus calls us to do good to others even if they don’t deserve it. This message is so impactful from Jesus because he didn’t just talk the talk, he walked the walk. Throughout his life he never sinned once even though he was tempted in every way. He loved his enemies, yet they put him to death on a cross where he paid for the sins of the whole world. Then three days later he rose from the dead and declared victory over sin, death, and the devil. This is what we call grace. Grace is God’s undeserved love for all people. And for you.

That gives us a completely new perspective on how we treat other people regardless of how they treat us. Jesus was willing to sacrifice his own life for us even though we are unlovable. He overcame evil with good. We can show grace to others even when they hurt us or mock us. We can love our enemies because God first loved us.

Our sinful nature will always want to treat people how they deserve to be treated. But through Christ working in us, we start to see they are no different than us. They need Jesus too. Then we can show them grace and offer a glimpse into the love of our heavenly Father!

Questions to Consider:

- What do we call it when we disobey God? (sin)
- What term from our devotion do we use for God's undeserved love? (grace)
- Why is it easier to love your friends than your enemies?
- How does God's grace lead us to be loving to both our friends and our enemies?
- Even though we weren't there when Jesus was nailed to the cross, why can each of us say we are responsible for Jesus' death on the cross?
- Think about specific people in your life who you have a hard time getting along with. What are specific actions you can take with them to follow God's commands to love our enemies?

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LUTHERAN
CHURCH

to glorify God

by growing in His Word and by going with His Word

to Woodbridge and to the world.



Trinity Lutheran Church is part of a group of nearly 1,300 churches called the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod or WELS. The WELS is a world-wide church with congregations serving in all fifty of the United States, as well as in Mexico and Canada. The WELS also serves over 26 foreign countries through world mission work. We are united in faith and teaching with the other churches of the WELS as well as the members of the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference, consisting of 21 confessional Lutheran church bodies throughout the world.